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Ballot Questions for Broward County Charter Amendments and Revisions

Recommended by the Broward County Charter Review Commission for the November 4, 2008 General Election

Broward County Charter Review Commission

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BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR BROWARD COUNTY RESIDENTS CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Among the issues on the November 4, 2008 ballot will be the proposed amendments and revisions to the Charter of Broward County. The Charter brought home rule to Broward County. The Charter provides a blueprint for the operation of a county-wide government and outlines the duties and responsibilities of the various entities that serve all residents of Broward County. The Charter also created a Charter Review Commission (CRC) that is empowered to conduct a comprehensive study of any and/or all phases of County government and to propose changes to the Charter. The CRC is a 19-member commission that meets every six (6) years. Its current term is 2006-2008.

The people of Broward County as well as the County Commission may propose amendments to the Charter through a petition process.

The Charter requires the County Commission to place the proposed amendments and/or revisions with associated ballot language without change on the general election ballot. These proposed amendments and/or revisions are in the form of ballot questions and are set forth below for you to consider and vote on at the November 4, 2008 General Election.

[County Charter Question 1](#)

CREATION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

[County Charter Question 2](#)

PROVIDING FOR THE NON-INTERFERENCE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION IN MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

[County Charter Question 3](#)

REQUIRING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH A VOTING CONFLICT TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION ON THAT MATTER

[County Charter Question 4](#)

THE CREATION OF A BROWARD COUNTY HOUSING COUNCIL

[County Charter Question 5](#)

STATEMENT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY WITH A REGIONAL AND COUNTYWIDE FOCUS

[County Charter Question 6](#)

BROWARD COUNTY PARK PRESERVATION

[County Charter Question 7](#)

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ENACTMENT OF POLICIES PROTECTING CITIZENS' RIGHT TO A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

[County Charter Question 8](#)

THE CREATION OF A BROWARD COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

[County Charter Question 9](#)

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING CONSULTANT FOR COUNTY COMMISSION SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

County Charter Question 10**MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE****County Charter Question 1****CREATION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

Currently the Charter provides for an Office/Department of Transportation that is managed by the County Administrator. Shall the Charter be amended to create an advisory body to be known as the Metropolitan Transit Authority, governed by an appointed Board of Trustees, which will have the responsibility to recommend improvements to the County's public transit plan, programs, and operations, and to assist with the coordination of a comprehensive, regional public transit system in Broward County?

YES - FOR APPROVAL

NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 2**PROVIDING FOR THE NON-INTERFERENCE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION IN MATTERS RELATING TO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

The current Charter requires the County Commission to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the interference of the County Commission or individual County Commissioners in matters relating to County Administration. Shall the Charter be amended to specifically prohibit the County Commission or individual County Commissioners from interfering directly with County employees and provide that all recommendations to the County Administration be made through the County Administrator, except for the purposes of formal inquiries and investigations?

YES - FOR APPROVAL

NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 3**REQUIRING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH A VOTING CONFLICT TO NOT PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION ON THAT MATTER**

State law currently allows County Commissioners who recuse themselves from voting on a matter being considered by the Commission to participate in the discussion on that matter. Shall the Charter be amended to require Commissioners who recuse themselves due to a voting conflict resulting from a financial interest in the matter to leave the Commission chamber and not to communicate or participate in any discussion on that matter?

YES - FOR APPROVAL

NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 4**THE CREATION OF A BROWARD COUNTY HOUSING COUNCIL**

In order to serve the public interest, the County Charter provides for the creation of certain councils. Shall the Charter be amended to provide for a Broward County Housing Council to serve in a non-taxing advisory capacity to facilitate coordination between the County, municipalities, businesses and not-for-profit groups to address such issues as affordable and workforce housing and homelessness, and to make annual recommendations regarding streamlining governmental regulations and enhancing housing stability?

YES - FOR APPROVAL

NO - FOR REJECTION

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County Charter Question 5**STATEMENT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY WITH A REGIONAL AND COUNTYWIDE FOCUS**

There is currently no language in the Broward County Charter detailing the County's role as a regional and countywide authority. Shall a policy statement be added to the Broward County Charter defining the Broward County government's duty to develop and implement programs, policies and budget with a countywide and regional focus, without being precluded from delivering services on a less than countywide basis?

YES - FOR APPROVAL

NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 6**BROWARD COUNTY PARK PRESERVATION**

The Charter currently does not contain a mechanism to protect parks owned by the County. Shall the Charter be amended to designate County-owned parks as either Natural Area Parks or Regional Parks, and to prohibit the sale, transfer or change of use of such parks without an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of the County electors?

YES - FOR APPROVAL
NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 7**STATEMENT REGARDING THE ENACTMENT OF POLICIES PROTECTING CITIZENS' RIGHT TO A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

There is currently no language in the Broward County Charter detailing the County Commission's duty to protect the environment. Shall an environmental policy statement be added to the Broward County Charter clarifying the Broward County government's duty to enact ordinances which protect its citizens' right to a sustainable environment, including clean air and clean water, while encouraging the stewardship of natural resources?

YES - FOR APPROVAL
NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 8**THE CREATION OF A BROWARD COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

The County Charter provides for the creation of certain councils; and Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, provides a general Code of Ethics which applies to certain public officials. Shall the Charter be amended to create a Broward County Ethics Commission for the specific purpose of preparing a Code of Ethics regulating the behavior of Broward County Commissioners, to be considered by the County Commission and/or the electors of Broward County?

YES - FOR APPROVAL
NO - FOR REJECTION

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County Charter Question 9**INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING CONSULTANT FOR COUNTY COMMISSION SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS**

The Broward County Charter currently provides for the County Commission to divide the County into nine single-member districts. Shall the Charter be amended to provide for the use of an independent redistricting consultant to develop plans and implement appropriate standards for redistricting of the County Commission single-member districts?

YES - FOR APPROVAL
NO - FOR REJECTION

County Charter Question 10**MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Charter currently provides that the Management and Efficiency Study Committee shall convene every six (6) years. It is scheduled to convene next in 2010. Shall the Charter be amended to require the Management and Efficiency Study Committee to meet in 2009 and every six (6) years thereafter in order to provide for a one (1) year hiatus between the meeting of the Charter Review Commission and the Management and Efficiency Study Committee?

YES - FOR APPROVAL
NO - FOR REJECTION

PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 4TH!

For more information about the proposed Charter amendments and revisions or to view the current Charter, please visit the Broward County Charter Review Commission website at www.broward.org/charter.

Published copies of the Broward County Charter and the proposed Charter amendments and revisions are available on the Broward County Charter Review Commission web site.

A printer-friendly version of the Ballot Questions for Broward County Charter Amendments and Revisions was also created in a Portable Document Format (PDF). To obtain a free copy of Acrobat Reader, used for downloading, viewing, and printing the Broward County Charter, [Click Here](#). This is a one time process, please follow the installation and browser configuration instructions provided by Adobe Acrobat.

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